

HANDHELDS

FAQ

Q My phone can play video clips, but I don't just want to watch music videos and football clips from my network's portal. Is it possible to transfer video clips from my PC to my phone?

A The best way to get video on your phone depends on your handset. If you have a Windows Mobile 5 smartphone or smartphone PDA, you should use Windows Media Player 10 to synchronise video directly with your phone.

Synchronise your handset with Windows using ActiveSync, then open Media Player and click on the Sync tab. Select your video file and click sync, and the video file will be converted to the right format.

Most standard phones can play video encoded in the 3gp format. The easiest way to encode a video file to this format is to use the free Super utility (www.8ightsoft.com/SUPER.html). This will encode video to a number of formats and has presets for different manufacturers' phones.

Chris Finnamore

Components and handhelds expert

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FUJITSU SIEMENS Pocket Loox T830

★★★★

£469 SIM-free; £200 on £30-per-month contract

Smartphone manufacturers are cramming more and more features into their phones, but Fujitsu Siemens' Pocket Loox T830 has the biggest list we've ever seen. There's a full QWERTY keyboard, Bluetooth, 802.11g wireless networking and 3G, as well as an integrated GPS receiver.

Unfortunately, Fujitsu Siemens couldn't manage to cram all this technology into a slim and lightweight package. The T830 is very large and feels heavy, while the grey plasticky finish is just plain ugly. Despite the handset's size, the screen is fairly small and has a resolution of 240x240 pixels, rather than the usual Windows Mobile 320x240 pixels.

Like Palm's Treo 750v reviewed in *What's New: Handhelds*, *Shopper* January 2007, the T830 has a QWERTY keyboard beneath the display. The keys look too small to be usable, but are actually remarkably easy to type on thanks to the generous amount of space between them. Typing messages is still not as fast as on the T-Mobile MDA Vario II's slide-out keypad, though. Thanks to the keyboard, the directional keypad and a jog wheel on the left of the handset, you can operate most of the smartphone's functions without using the stylus.

Like all Windows Mobile smartphones, you can set up the T830 to download email from a POP3 or IMAP4 server. You can also synchronise the handset with a Microsoft Exchange server over GPRS and, if the Exchange server has Push email enabled, it will deliver mail directly to the handset as soon as it arrives. The T830 also has a Direct Push mode, where the handset is in standby but can still receive Push email. Unless you plan to use this phone for business, it's

unlikely that you'll be able to use push email.

The T830 has a camera on the front as well as the rear, for 3G video calling. The main camera is impressive. It has a 2-megapixel resolution and there is hardly any shutter delay, so your subject is unlikely to have moved out of the frame by the time the photo is taken. There's no flash, so it's hard to take pictures in poorly lit places, but daylight shots have good contrast if slightly washed-out colours.

There's also a 3.5mm headphone socket, and the supplied pair has balanced treble and mid-range, if little bass. There is room for some pictures and audio files in the 62MB of free internal storage, and the T830 uses standard-sized SD cards rather than mini- or micro-SD if you want to expand this. The handset has

a simple GPS program installed. You can set your current position but, with no maps, navigation can be difficult. You'll need to buy a separate Windows Mobile navigation software package for any serious navigation.

Fujitsu Siemens' T830 is a fast messaging smartphone with an unmatched specification. It's a shame it's so big and heavy, and it's very expensive on contract. For the same price, you could buy a Palm Treo 750v (*What's New, Shopper* January 2007) and a standalone in-car GPS system.

Chris Finnamore



SUMMARY

- ✓ Does almost everything
- ✗ Big, heavy and ugly
- ✗ Expensive

PDA SMARTPHONE Tri-band GSM, 3G, Windows Mobile 5 operating system, 2.4" 240x240 LCD, 416MHz Intel PXA270 processor, 64MB internal storage (62MB available), SD card slot, Bluetooth, 802.11b/g, integrated GPS receiver, 2-megapixel camera, four hours' talk time, six days' standby, 195g
PART CODE T830
SUPPLIER www.pcwb.com
DETAILS www.fujitsu-siemens.co.uk

Also consider...

NAVMAN iCN 720

★★★★★

£300 inc VAT



Navman's iCN 720 is a standalone

GPS system with an integrated digital camera, so you can take photos of places you've been and navigate by picture rather than address.

It has a superb high-resolution screen and is very easy to use. It supports full seven-digit UK postcodes, and its route calculation is fast with accurate navigation. Even though it's expensive, this is our favourite standalone GPS system.

STANDALONE GPS NAVIGATION SYSTEM TeleAtlas UK and Ireland maps, 4" 480x272 resolution LCD, 1.3-megapixel camera, SIRFstar III Generation 2 GPS receiver, SD card slot, 136x31x77mm, 300g
PART CODE iCN 720 SUPPLIER www.activegps.co.uk
DETAILS www.navman.com ✓ Excellent screen ✗ Mediocre battery life FULL REVIEW Sep 2006



SONY ERICSSON K800i

★★★★★

£250 inc VAT SIM-free; free to £30 on £30-per-month contract



The K800i is Sony Ericsson's first 3-megapixel camera phone. The phone's camera focuses more quickly than any camera phone we have seen and it's even possible to capture action shots with the BestPic mode. There's also a proper flash, so shots taken in darkness are properly illuminated. The photos have little noise and are fine for 6x4" prints. Apart from a wobbly keypad, the phone is easy to use. This is the best camera phone available and it's good value on contract.

MOBILE PHONE Tri-band GSM, 3G, 240x320 resolution LCD, 64MB internal memory, Memory Stick Micro slot, USB, Bluetooth, 3-megapixel camera, 47x22x105mm, 115g
PART CODE K800i SUPPLIER Vodafone/Orange/T-Mobile/O2
DETAILS www.sonyericsson.co.uk ✓ Superb camera ✗ Uses Memory Stick Micro cards FULL REVIEW Dec 2006



NOKIA E50

★★★★★

From free to £20 on contract

As long as you buy them on contract, smartphones are now just as cheap as normal mobile phones. Even though a normal mobile can send and receive emails and browse the internet, a smartphone is vastly more powerful in almost every way. Nokia's E50 is its latest business smartphone to be available for free on contract.

The E50's slim design is reminiscent of the business user's favourite, the Nokia 6230. Its black and silver finish is smart, and the handset is very comfortable to hold. The numeric keypad's buttons are large and are raised in the centre for easy typing. The clear button is quite close to the hang-up button, so often you find yourself going back to the home screen by accident. Call quality is good, but there is a slight background hiss.

The phone runs Nokia's latest Symbian Series 60 3rd Edition operating system. This supports higher screen resolutions than the previous version, so the E50's display has a reasonable 240x320 pixels compared to the 176x220 on older Nokia smartphones. The screen is bright with good contrast, but text on the home screen is very small. The home screen has short cuts to common functions such as contacts, calendar and messaging, and shows any upcoming appointments in your calendar.

Like all Nokia smartphones, the E50 can send and receive email using a POP3 or IMAP4 server. The phone also has the excellent



Symbian Series 60 3rd Edition web browser, which renders full-size webpages perfectly and uses a pointer to navigate. You can have several webpages open at once, and switch between them using the page preview screen which displays a thumbnail of each page. Unfortunately, the handset doesn't support 3G data, so you're stuck with GPRS.

The E50 also has a number of extra applications for business users. You can view Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents, and PDFs. The file manager can also read Zip archives. There is even a program that reads out your texts. The handset comes with Nokia's PC Suite synchronisation software, which synchronises painlessly with Outlook over Bluetooth or the supplied USB cable. If you don't have Outlook, PC Suite has a built-in contacts editor.

Series 60 3rd Edition has integrated video and audio players, which play 3gp and MP4 video, and MP3, AAC and WMV audio files. As it's a business

handset, the E50 is supplied with a mono hands-free kit and not stereo headphones. There's also no camera.

Nokia's E50 is a good-looking smartphone that's perfect for business users. It's a shame it has no 3G data, as this handicaps the excellent web browser. If you're serious about the mobile web we'd recommend Nokia's E61, but otherwise the E50 is an excellent choice.

Chris Finnamore

SUMMARY

- ✓ Slim and good looking
- ✓ Reads Office documents
- ✗ No 3G data

SMARTPHONE Quad-band GSM, Symbian Series 60 3rd Edition operating system, 2.2" 240x320 LCD, 70MB internal storage, micro-SD card slot, Bluetooth, four hours' talk time, six days' standby, 195g

PART CODE E50-2
SUPPLIER www.t-mobile.co.uk
DETAILS www.nokia.co.uk

CHOOSING A... Smartphone

Follow the steps to find your ideal specs

STYLE: Handset

OPERATING SYSTEM: Windows Mobile 5.0

SCREEN: 240x320; 65,536 colours

INPUT: Keypad

CAMERA: 1.3 megapixel

BLUETOOTH: Yes

DATA CALLS: GPRS

Recommended minimum in grey

1 A smartphone's operating system – Palm OS, Windows Mobile or Symbian – dictates its basic features and what third-party software you can install. Windows Mobile 5.0 has the familiar look and feel of Windows, right down to a Start button, and is found on both handset- and PDA-style smartphones.

The only Palm OS smartphone available is Palm's Treo 650. There are four types of Symbian operating systems: series 60, 80, 90 and UIQ. Series 60, 80 and 90 are found on Nokia smartphones, while Sony Ericsson uses UIQ for its P900 smartphone series. Windows Mobile 5.0, Palm OS and Symbian all support third-party applications, and there is a vast amount of both freeware and commercial software available.

Unlike Windows Mobile 5.0 and Palm OS, Symbian can be customised by the phone's manufacturer and so may differ from phone to phone.

2 All smartphones come with a colour screen. A high-colour depth of 65,536 colours is important for viewing photos or video clips.

Users navigate and input information into a handset type of smartphone using the keypad and buttons or a jog dial. PDA-style smartphones usually have a touch screen, and both Pocket PC and Palm have handwriting recognition features as well as onscreen keyboards. A few have a built-in QWERTY keyboard.

3 Cameras are common in smartphones. Resolution is limited, with three megapixels being the best you'll get. However, as most images will be viewed only onscreen or sent as a video message, this shouldn't be a problem for most people.

4 Bluetooth makes it easier to link your phone to a PC for synchronisation or wireless web access. For internet access, a GPRS or 3G mobile contract is essential. Data is billed per megabyte downloaded, but if you sign up for a data bundle when buying your smartphone it will work out cheaper.

NOKIA E61

★★★★★

Free on £30 contract, £255 SIM-free



The E61 is Nokia's rival to the RIM BlackBerry.

It is made for messaging, with a full QWERTY keypad and large and bright 2.8" screen.

It's a large phone but it's light, with good call quality. The handset supports Push email, so messages are delivered straight to the handset without you having to schedule regular downloads. The web browser is also superb, and the E61 is excellent value on contract.



T-MOBILE MDA Vario II

★★★★★

£70 on £30-per-month contract

T-Mobile's MDA Vario II has a slide-out QWERTY keyboard and runs Windows Mobile 5. The keyboard is very easy to use, apart from an awkwardly placed function key. Scrolling through messages is simple with the BlackBerry-style scroll wheel.

The Vario II supports POP3 email, but you can use Push email only if you can connect to a Microsoft Exchange server. Apart from that, this is an excellent messaging smartphone.



SYMBIAN SMARTPHONE Quad-band + 3G, Symbian Series 60 Third Edition, 2.8" 320x240-pixel LCD, 65MB internal storage, 64MB mini-SD card, 802.11b/g, Bluetooth, 9½ hours talk time, 17 days standby, 144g PART CODE E61 SUPPLIER www.vodafone.co.uk (with contract), www.expansys.com (SIM-free) DETAILS www.nokia.co.uk ✓ Perfect for messaging ✗ No camera or headphones FULL REVIEW Sep 2006

PDA SMARTPHONE Quad-band GSM, dual-band 3G, Windows Mobile 5 operating system, 2.8" 240x320 pixel LCD, 400MHz Samsung processor, 64MB internal storage, (54MB available), micro-SD card slot, 802.11b/g, Bluetooth, IR, 2-megapixel camera, 4½ hours' talk time, eight days' standby, 176g PART CODE MDA Vario II SUPPLIER www.t-mobile.co.uk DETAILS www.t-mobile.co.uk ✓ Great keyboard, 3G and wireless networking ✗ Only Exchange Push email FULL REVIEW Jan 2007